

◆ **Measure #66: Appropriate Testing for Children with Pharyngitis**

DESCRIPTION:

Percentage of children aged 2 through 18 years with a diagnosis of pharyngitis, who were prescribed an antibiotic and who received a group A streptococcus (strep) test for the episode

INSTRUCTIONS:

This measure is to be reported once for each occurrence of pharyngitis during the reporting period. Claims data will be analyzed to determine unique occurrences. This measure is intended to reflect the quality of services provided for the primary management of patients with pharyngitis who were dispensed an antibiotic. This measure may be reported by clinicians who perform the quality actions described in the measure based on the services provided and the measure-specific denominator coding.

This measure is reported using CPT Category II codes:

ICD-9 diagnosis codes, CPT E/M service codes, and patient demographics (age, gender, etc.) are used to identify patients who are included in the measure's denominator. CPT Category II codes are used to report the numerator of the measure.

When reporting the measure, submit the listed ICD-9 diagnosis codes, CPT E/M service codes, and the appropriate CPT Category II code(s) **OR** the CPT Category II code(s) **with** the modifier. The modifiers allowed for this measure are: 1P- medical reasons, 8P- reasons not otherwise specified.

NUMERATOR:

Patients who were dispensed an antibiotic and who received a group A streptococcus (strep) test for the episode

NUMERATOR NOTE: The correct combination of numerator code(s) must be reported on the claim form in order to properly report this measure. The "correct combination" of codes may require the submission of multiple numerator codes.

Numerator Coding:

Group A Streptococcus Test Performed and Antibiotic Prescribed

(Two CPT II codes [3210F & 4120F] are required on the claim form to submit this category)

CPT II 3210F: Group A Strep Test Performed

AND

CPT II 4120F: Antibiotic prescribed or dispensed

OR

Group A Streptococcus Test not Performed for Medical Reasons

(Two CPT II codes [3210F-1P & 4120F] are required on the claim form to submit this category)

Append a modifier (**1P**) to CPT Category II codes **3210F** to report documented circumstances that appropriately exclude patients from the denominator.

- **3210F with 1P**: Documentation of medical reason(s) for not Performing Group A Strep Test

AND

CPT II 4120F: Antibiotic prescribed or dispensed

OR

If patient is not eligible for this measure because patient was not prescribed antibiotics, report:

(One CPT II code [4124F] is required on the claim form to submit this category)

CPT II 4124F: Antibiotic neither prescribed nor dispensed

OR

Group A Streptococcus Test not Performed, Reason not Specified

(Two CPT II codes [3210F-8P & 4120F] are required on the claim form to submit this category)

Append a reporting modifier (**8P**) to CPT Category II code **3210F** to report circumstances when the action described in the numerator is not performed and the reason is not otherwise specified.

- **3210F with 8P**: Group A Strep Test not Performed, reason not otherwise specified

AND

CPT II 4120F: Antibiotic prescribed or dispensed

DENOMINATOR:

All patients aged 2 through 18 years with a diagnosis of pharyngitis

Denominator Coding:

An ICD-9 diagnosis code for pharyngitis and a CPT E/M service code are required to identify patients for denominator inclusion.

ICD-9 diagnosis codes: 034.0, 462, 463

AND

CPT E/M service codes: 99201, 99202, 99203, 99204, 99205, 99211, 99212, 99213, 99214, 99215, 99217, 99218, 99219, 99220, 99241, 99242, 99243, 99244, 99245

RATIONALE:

Clinical practice guidelines recommend group A streptococcus pharyngitis be treated with antibiotics (Schwartz et al, 1998).

CLINICAL RECOMMENDATION STATEMENTS:

The group A strep test (rapid assay or throat culture) is the definitive test of group A strep pharyngitis. Pharyngitis is the only respiratory tract infection with an objective diagnostic test that can be validated with administrative data, and not medical records. A process measure that requires the performance of a group A strep test for children given antibiotics for pharyngitis is supported by the guidelines. (Ibid)